strates or in pouches wherein the said anionic oligomeric esters are present in releasable form.

A preferred form of laundering and fabric care composition of the invention is a liquid detergent composition containing the aforesaid esters and optionally also comprising fabric care agents which are fabric softeners and/or antistatic agents. A highly preferred form of laundering and fabric care composition of the invention is an isotropic liquid detergent composition.

Granular formulations embodying the detergent compositions of the present invention can be formed by conventional techniques, i.e., by slurrying the individual components in water and then atomizing and spray-drying the resultant mixture, or by pan or drum granulation of the ingredients. Granular formulations preferably comprise from about 10 to about 30% detergent surfactant, usually anionic, and most preferably about 15 to about 25% surfactant.

Liquid formulations embodying the detergent compositions can be built or unbuilt. If unbuilt, these compositions contain approximately 15 to 50% (preferably about 20 to 35%) total surfactant; from 0 to 5% (preferably from 0 to 2%) of an organic base, such as a mono-, di-, or tri-alkanol amine; a neutralization system, such as an alkali metal hydroxide; a lower primary alcohol, such as ethanol or isopropanol; and approximately 20 to 80% water.

Built liquid detergent compositions can be in the form of single phase liquids provided that the builder is solubilized in the mixture at its level of use. Such liquids conventionally contain about 10 to 40% (preferably about 15 to 25%) total surfactant, about 1 to 25% (preferably about 3 to 20%) builder which can be organic or inorganic, up to about 10% of a hydrotrope system, and about 20 to 80% water. Built liquid detergents incorporating components that form heterogeneous mixtures (or levels of builder that cannot be completely dissolved) can also comprise detergent compositions of the present invention. Such liquids conventionally employ viscosity modifiers to produce systems having plastic shear characteristics to maintain stable dispersions and to prevent phase separation or solid settlement.

To ensure that hydrolysis of the anionic oligomeric esters does not occur during formulation or storage of the consumer laundering and fabric care compositions of the invention, the esters sould generally not be exposed to extremes of pH. Consumer products are generally formulated for mildness, for fabric care and for maximum stability of ingredients such as enzymes, in a pH range between about 4 and about 10.5, more preferably between about 5 and about 8.5 (measured in 1.0 wt % aqueous solution).

Specific Examples of Consumer Laundering and Fabric Care Compositions According to the Present Invention

EXAMPLE V

A soil-releasing detergent composition is made by mixing the ingredients described as follows:

Ingredients	Wt. %
Anionic oligomeric esters of Example I	5
C_{13} linear alkylbenzenesulfonic acid, sodium salt	60
C_{12}–C_{13} alcohol polyethoxylate (6.5)	35

The composition of Example V is added to an aqueous laundry bath at a concentration of 1000 ppm to provide fabric cleaning and soil release performance.

EXAMPLE VI

A soil-releasing detergent composition is made by mixing ingredients as follows:

Ingredients	Wt. %
Anionic oligomeric esters of Example II	3
C_{13} linear alkylbenzenesulfonic acid, sodium salt	50
C_{12}–C_{13} alcohol polyethoxylate (6.5)	40

The composition of Example VI is added to an aqueous laundry bath at a concentration of 1250 ppm to provide fabric cleaning and soil release performance.

EXAMPLE VII

A soil-releasing detergent composition is made by mixing ingredients as follows:

Ingredients	Wt. %
Anionic oligomeric esters of Example III	3
C_{13} linear alkylbenzenesulfonic acid, sodium salt	50
C_{12}–C_{13} alcohol polyethoxylate (6.5)	47

The composition of Example VII is added to an aqueous laundry bath at a concentration of 1200 ppm to provide fabric cleaning and soil release performance.

EXAMPLE VIII

A composition of the type shown below is prepared as premeasured, 50-gram sachets, using water-permeable, nonwoven cloth as the sachet material. The sachets are simply placed in an aqueous fabric treatment bath to provide soil release performance benefits when said aqueous bath is used for soaking fabrics.

Ingredients	Wt. %
Anionic oligomeric esters of Example IV*	10
Sodium sulfate	90

*Sprayed onto sodium sulfate and air-dried.

EXAMPLE IX

A soil-releasing granular detergent composition is as follows:

Component	Wt. %
Anionic oligomeric esters of Example I*	2.0
Sodium C_{14}–C_{15} alkylethoxysulfate	10.7
C_{13} linear alkyl benzene sulfonic acid	4.3
C_{12}–C_{14} alkylpolyethoxylate (6)	0.5
C_{12} alkyltrimethyl ammonium chloride	0.5
Sodium toluene sulfonate	1.0
Sodium tripolyphosphate	32.9
Sodium carbonate	20.3
Sodium silicate	5.8
Minors and water	Balance to 100

*Enrobed in PEG having an average M.W. 8,000 to provide protection from locally high concentrations of alkali.

Except for the enrobed oligomeric ester particles, the components are added together with continuous mixing to form an aqueous slurry which is then spray dried to